

## Column E Explanation

This form is intended as an aid to completing the Column E explanation. It is not an official form and its use is voluntary. Names, addresses, protocols, veterinary care programs, and the like, are not required as part of an explanation. A Column E explanation must be written so as to be understood by lay persons as well as scientists.

1. Registration Number: 56-R-003
2. Number Blarina carolinensis of animals used in this study.  
Southern Short-
3. Species (common name) tail shrew of animals used in the study.
4. Explain the procedure producing pain and/or distress.

Blarina carolinensis, the southern short tail shrew, has an extremely high metabolic rate and does not tolerate stress well. When captured in live traps, they often rapidly die. The animals captured in this study are trapped using Sherman live traps that are only set at night to avoid potential hyperthermia. At dusk the traps are set and at sunrise the traps are checked, animals are tagged, recorded and released, and the traps are closed for the day. The absolute maximum time that an animal could remain in the trap is 10 hours. Blarina are not the target species for this experiment, however, 5 of them were found dead in traps during this period.

5. Provide scientific justification why pain and/or distress could not be relieved. State methods or means used to determine that pain and/or distress relief would interfere with test results. (For Federally mandated testing, see Item 6 below)

The justification for these animals being placed in category E is not scientific, but logistical. There is no way to prevent this species from being trapped short of not performing the study. The traps are checked regularly. More frequent checks would decrease the ability to capture animals and successfully complete the study. And finally, since the animals die acutely from stress, there are no possible cage modifications that we are aware of that would increase survival. It appears that any trapping of these animals entails a high mortality.

6. What, if any, federal regulations require this procedure? Cite the agency, the code of Federal Regulations (CFR) title number and the specific section number (e.g., APHIS, 9 CFR 113.102):

Agency \_\_\_\_\_ CFR \_\_\_\_\_